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Voters Decide Fate of Bonds May 11



YOUTH CITY COUNCIL HOLDS 'MOCK' MEETING -- Broken Arrow's Youth City Council held its Mock City Council meeting on March 29, and as usual got a taste of the usual and unusual faced by their adult counterparts. The five BAHS seniors were (from left) Mayor Christy Miller, Vice-Mayor Corey Woodward, Melissa Morie, Keri Parish and April Dunham.

Country Aire Pool Joining Family Aquatics Center for Summer 2004

After a summer with only one swimming pool in 2003, the City of Broken Arrow is ready for bigger and hotter times this summer with the addition of a new Country Aire pool.

Scheduled to open last spring, the Country Aire facility was delayed by a series of construction problems. Now it's ready to join the Family Aquatics Center in Central Park to provide water enthusiasts more opportunities than ever in Broken Arrow.

This will be the fourth year for the FAC, which features two giant slides, a walk-in entry and a separate kiddie pool area. The old pool at Central Park will once again be used for swimming lessons and some lap swimming.

Swimming lessons begin June 7 and continue through the summer (ending July 29). Sessions are two weeks in duration, and cost \$40 per child (six months through advanced swimmers).

Pool passes are available for \$40 for children for the season, or \$45 for adults. A family season pass costs \$110. Daily fees are \$2 for children and \$3 for adults at Central Park and \$1 and \$2 at

(See POOLS, Page 4)

4-Part Package Would Provide City \$53 Million

Providing for the present with an eye to the future has been a key component of Broken Arrow's continuing growth over the past four decades. On Tuesday, May 11, city voters will be asked to decide the fate of four separate bond proposals which have been designed by citizen committees to do just that.

The \$53 million package is the largest ever for Broken Arrow, and yet by being spread out over four to five years for repayment, tax rates should not be significantly affected.

As in past years, the biggest chunk of bond money is being asked for improvements to streets and intersections. Those would total \$27,375,000.

Public Safety items would receive \$12,770,000, while Quality of Life (parks and recreation) would get \$5,155,000.

The fourth proposal (Public Buildings) is for \$8,075,000, which would finance the start of a Historical Society Museum in the central part of the city and a one-story conference/convention center to be located along the BA Expressway.

By law, at least 70 percent of the bond money being asked for must be designated for specific projects. Therefore, the money listed for each project will not result in a total equal to what will be on the ballot. For instance, money remaining from the 2000 bond issue transportation proposal is now being used to make improvements on other street projects.

Included in this edition of "Focus" are details of each project, as worded in the ordinance calling for the election:

Package B (Public Safety): Acquisition, construction, equipping and furnishing a new emergency operation center to be located in south central Broken Arrow, including a new fire station to replace an existing fire station. The building would be a secured facility with hardened walls and constructed partially underground. \$7,500,000.

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Bonds....

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Renovation of the existing police department building, including exterior improvements to match the City's justice center. \$545,000

Construction of Phase II to the existing police and fire Training Center, including meeting space and additional specialized training areas. \$2,400,000.

Acquisition, construction, equipping and furnishing of a new fire station in the southwest quadrant of the City. \$2,050,000.

Acquisition and installation of additional warning sirens to the City's civil defense program, including emergency warnings for adverse weather conditions and other emergency broadcasts. \$275,000.

Total: \$12,770,000

Package C (Parks & Recreation) -- Construction and equipping of Phase II of a youth football complex at Nienhuis Park, including additional parking, restrooms and additional playing fields. \$1,560,000

Replacement of baseball field lighting at the Indian Springs Sports Complex with more efficient and updated lighting. \$455,000

Replacement of the existing spray and splash swimming pool at Haskell Park. \$70,000

Improvements at Nienhuis Park, including the installation of spectator seating, construction of the parks department maintenance facility and two picnic shelters and installation of a new play system and skate board park. \$455,000.

Construction, equipping and furnishing a nature center at Ray Harrell Park. \$585,000.

Construction and improvements to Battle Creek Golf Course, including additional outside restrooms, expansion of the irrigation system and other improvements to the golf course. \$750,000.

Acquisition of land in Wagoner County for construction of a new community/fitness center. \$1,000,000.

Expansion and modernization of a portion of the Indian Springs Sports Complex, including a new restroom and concession building in the old soccer complex. \$185,000.

Construction of four new picnic shelters at parks within the City. \$95,000.

Total: \$5,155,000

Package D (Public Buildings) -- Acquisition, construction, equipping and furnishing a new one story conference/convention center to be located along the Broken Arrow Expressway comprising approximately 50,000 square feet. \$6,575,000

Acquisition, construction, equipping and furnishing of a two-story public building consisting of approximately 8,000 square feet to serve as a historical museum and park in the downtown area of the City. \$1,500,000

Total: \$8,075,000



A GROWING TRADITION -- More and more people each year are coming to Central Park on Tuesday nights in June to enjoy the weekly concert series.

June Park Concert Lineup Set

Once again this year the City of Broken Arrow is partnering with the Broken Arrow Arts & Humanities Council to bring series of Tuesday night concerts to Central Park during the month of June.

A different style of music will be featured in each of the concerts, which are free and open to the public. Lawn chairs, lounges and picnic blankets fill the area around the mobile stage (Showmobile) for each of the concerts, with food and soft drink vendors once again slated to be on hand.

Gospel music will be spotlighted on June 1, with Chuck Cissel and Earl Clark on stage June 8. The Starlight Band is due on June 15 and the Smith Brothers on June 22. The final concert (June 29) will be "Bluegrass Night," featuring III Generation.

There will also be a series of informal "pickin' sessions" at Centennial Park on Thursday nights in June. Those are also free and open to the public. Centennial is located at the corner of Main and Broadway.

Package A (Transportation) -- Following is the list of specified street and intersection projects.

Widening Albany to five lanes from 9th Street to 23rd Street, including storm sewers, curbs, gutters and acquisition of easements and right-of-way. \$1,320,000

Widening New Orleans to five lanes from Elm Street to 9th Street, including storm sewers, curbs and gutters and acquisition of easements and right-of-way. \$1,550,000

Reconstruction of and improvements to the intersection at Elm Street and New Orleans, including relocation of signal lights and acquisition of easements and right-of-way.

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Bonds...

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\$460,000

Widening 9th Street to three lanes from Omaha to Albany, including storm sewers, curbs and gutters and acquisition of easements and right-of-way. \$1,320,000

Resurfacing four lanes of Kenosha from 23rd Street to 93rd Street (approximately five and one-half miles), including drainage improvements, milling off existing surface and laying down approximately two inches of asphalt. \$920,000.

Widening New Orleans to three lanes from 9th to 23rd Street, including storm sewers, curbs and gutters and acquisition of easements and right-of-way. \$1,895,000

Widening Aspen to five lanes from New Orleans to Florence, including storm sewers, curbs and gutters and acquisition of easements and right-of-way. \$2,070,000

Widening Elm Street to three lanes from Tucson to Jasper, including storm sewers, curbs and gutters and acquisition of right-of-way. \$1,150,000.

Widening Olive to three lanes from Kenosha to Houston, including storm sewers, curbs and gutters and acquisition of easements and right-of-way. \$1,380,000

Widening Washington to three lanes from 1st Street to 9th Street, including storm sewers, curbs and gutters and acquisition of easements and right-of-way. \$1,435,000

Widening Kenosha to five lanes from 37th Street to Creek Turnpike, including storm sewers, curbs and gutters and acquisition of easements and right-of-way. \$1,035,000

Reconstruction of and improvements to the intersection of Olive and New Orleans, including relocation of signal lights and acquisition of easements and right-of-way. \$745,000

Widening Kenosha to five lanes from 23rd Street to 37th Street, including storm sewers, curbs and gutters and acquisition of easements and right-of-way. \$1,895,000

Widening Olive to three lanes from Houston to Washington, including storm sewers, curbs and gutters and acquisition of easements and right-of-way. \$1,265,000

Widening Washington to four lanes from Elm Street to 1st Street, including storm sewers, curbs and gutters and acquisition of easements and right-of-way. \$722,500.

Total: \$19,162,500

(70 percent of \$27,375,000)



Police Chief Todd Wuestewald cuts the ribbon before a large crowd gathered to celebrate the official dedication of the Justice Center, just south of the Police Station. Shown below is a photo of the new jail in that building.



Emergency Training Exercise Scheduled for BA May 18-19

The Oklahoma Department of Emergency Management has selected Broken Arrow as the site for a community training exercise, to be held May 18 and 19.

During the past year the training scenarios have been held at Camp Gruber. One reason for the decision to bring the exercise to Broken Arrow has been the leadership exhibited by the fire department, as well as police and emergency management personnel, in sessions at Camp Gruber.

Directors of the program will script a series of disasters that will be staged in Broken Arrow, with first responders here having to react as though the situations were real. It is expected that some national legislators from Oklahoma and other state officials will attend.

Pools...

(Continued from Page 1)

Country Aire.

The two pools are also available for rentals for special parties. Call the Parks & Recreation Department at 259-8436 for information or see the City's web site at www.brokenarrowok.gov.

Instructors in the Learn to Swim program at Central Park are Red Cross trained. The past two years the lessons have had tremendous reception.

Walk-in enrollments are accepted, from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the BA Community Center, 1500 S. Main in Central Park. A variety of times are available for the different age groups, with sessions going from June 7 to 17, June 21 to July 1, July 5 to July 15 and July 19 to 29.

All classes are offered during each of the four sessions.

Youth Soccer Signups for Fall Leagues, through end of July -- Call 258-0770



PLANTING FOR THE FUTURE -- Students from Spring Creek Elementary Earth Club join some of the "regular" assistants from the BA Alternative School Academy at an Arbor Day tree planting in late March at Jackson Park.

BA Honored as Tree City 4th Straight Year

For the fourth straight year, Broken Arrow has been honored as a "Tree City USA" by the National Arbor Day Foundation. One of the requirements is to host an Arbor Day ceremony each spring (see above photo).

City of Broken Arrow

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220 South First Street
Broken Arrow, OK 74012
(www.brokenarrowok.gov)

Helpful Phone Numbers:

Animal Control259-8311
Citizens Action Center258-3587
Fire Department (Main office)259-8360
Parks & Recreation/Comm. Center ..259-8380
Public Works (all offices)259-8373
Seniors Center (at Main Place)259-8377
Sewer & Water Emergencies
7 a.m. to 4 p.m.259-8373
after hours259-8400
Police Department259-8350
TDD259-8452
Traffic Fines/Municipal Court259-8424
Utility Payments259-8409

Police, Fire or Ambulance Emergencies . . . 911

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